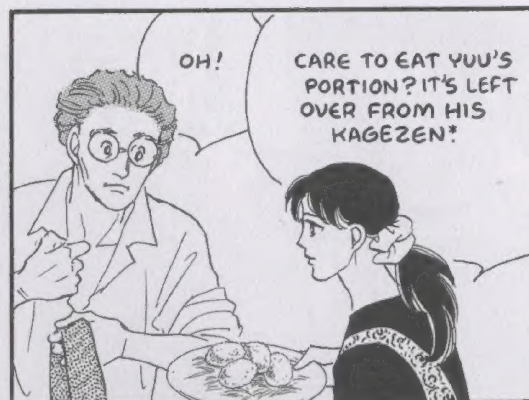
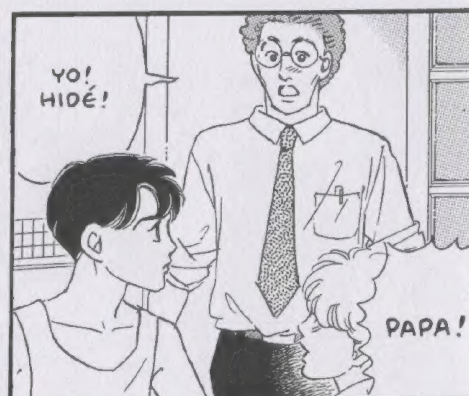


WELCOME  
HOME,  
YUU.

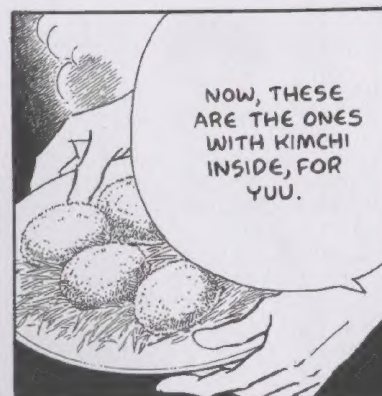
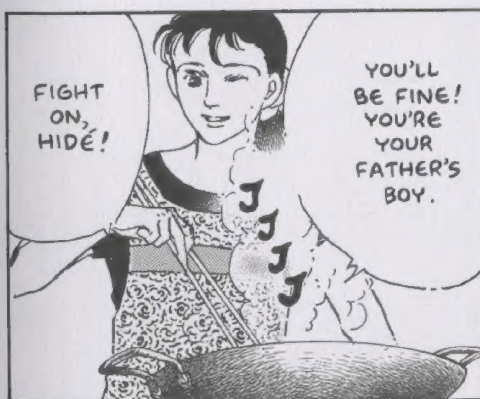




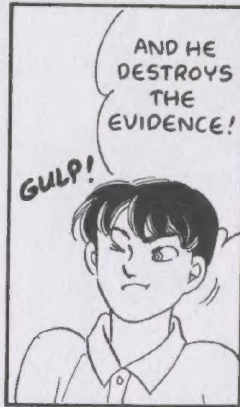


\* KAGEZEN: A MEAL SET FOR AN ABSENT OR DECEASED IN THE JAPANESE TRADITION.









AND HE DESTROYS THE EVIDENCE!

GULP!



IT'S JUST A GAME.

IT'S YOUR FAULT IF WE FAIL, HIDE.



THAT'S RIGHT!

YOU BOYS! THAT'S NOT FAIR!

IT WAS HIDE WHO STARTED PASSING IT AROUND.



HIDE'S SO WEIRD.

HEAR THAT? YOU'RE WEIRD, HIDE!

ARE YOU SURE THE ANSWER TO THE LAST ONE WAS ZERO!?



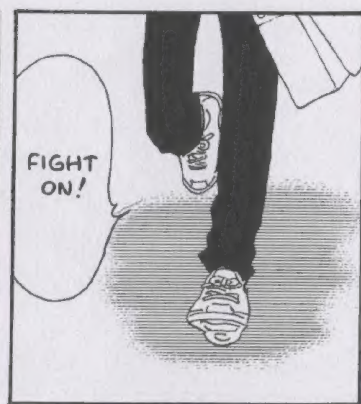
I WAS JUST CLEANING AND FOUND ALL THESE THINGS.

LOOK. YUU'S BAG FROM NURSERY SCHOOL.

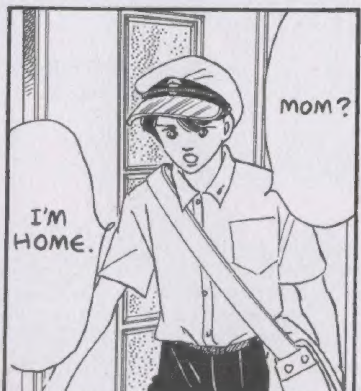


WELCOME HOME, HIDE.

OH.



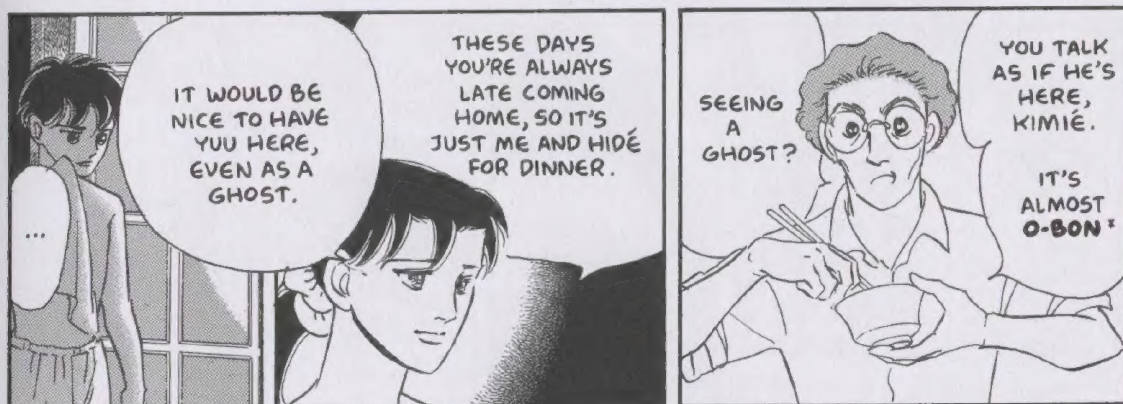
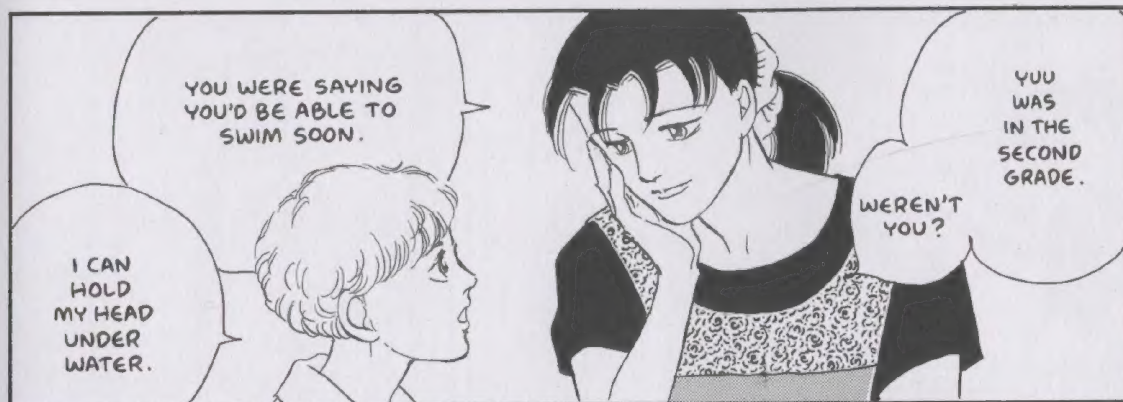
FIGHT ON!



MOM?

I'M HOME.





\* O-BON (OR "BON"): THE JAPANESE BUDDHIST FESTIVAL OF THE DEAD HELD EACH AUGUST.





OKAY.



UM.  
MOM.

STARTING  
NEXT WEEK  
WE HAVE  
BASEBALL  
PRACTICE  
IN THE  
MORNINGS.



MAMA



I DON'T KNOW.  
THERE'S THIS  
BIG KID NAMED  
OH-IWA.

HE'S  
REALLY  
GOOD.

GOOD LUCK.  
DO YOU  
THINK YOU'LL  
GET TO BE  
A REGULAR  
MEMBER?

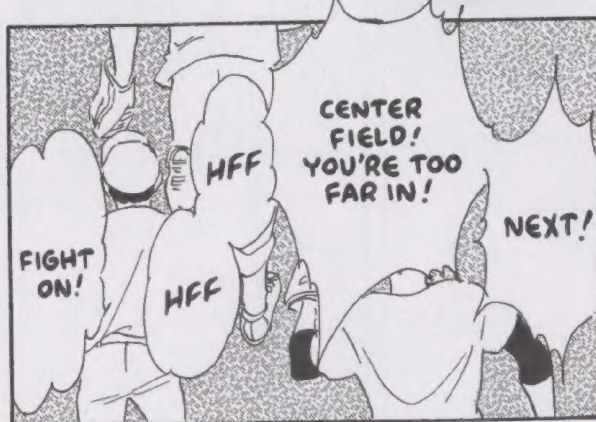


FIGHT  
ON!

CRACK



FIGHT ON,  
HIDÉ!



FIGHT  
ON!

HFF  
HFF  
HFF

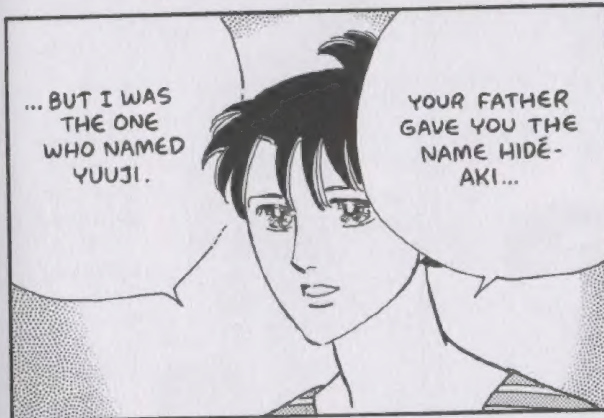
CENTER  
FIELD!  
YOU'RE TOO  
FAR IN!

NEXT!



HFF  
HFF  
HFF



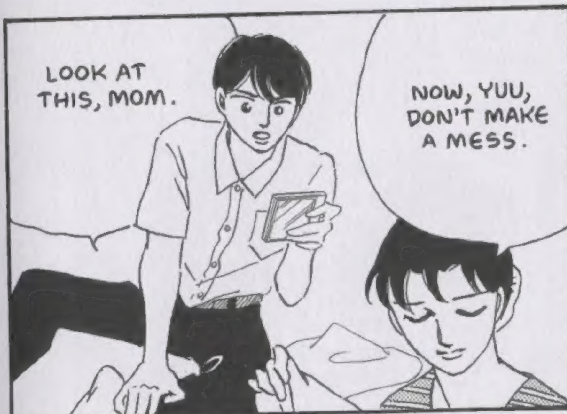


... BUT I WAS  
THE ONE  
WHO NAMED  
YUUJI.

YOUR FATHER  
GAVE YOU THE  
NAME HIDE-  
AKI...



IT'S  
SO  
SMALL.



LOOK AT  
THIS, MOM.

NOW, YUU,  
DON'T MAKE  
A MESS.



OH, I  
REMEMBER  
THIS.

WE USED  
TO LISTEN  
TO IT ALL  
THE TIME,  
DIDN'T  
WE?

"CLASSICS  
FOR  
MOTHER  
AND  
CHILD".



WITH HIS  
REDDISH  
HAIR... CRYING  
ALL NIGHT...  
ALWAYS  
CATCHING  
COLD...

YOU WERE  
ALWAYS SUCH AN  
EASY CHILD TO  
CARE FOR. BUT  
YUU WAS A REAL  
HANDFUL.

I ALWAYS  
WORRIED  
ABOUT  
HIM.

ROLL  
ROLL

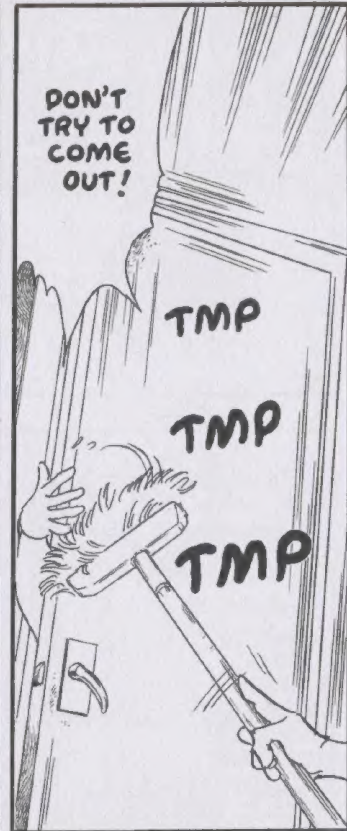


HE INHERITED  
HIS MOTHER'S  
LOVE OF  
MUSIC.

HE WAS  
BECOMING  
SO GOOD  
ON THE  
VIOLIN.

YUU USED TO LOVE  
GRIEG'S "PEER GYNT".  
HE'D ACTUALLY CRY.  
HE'D LISTEN TO IT  
AND CRY.



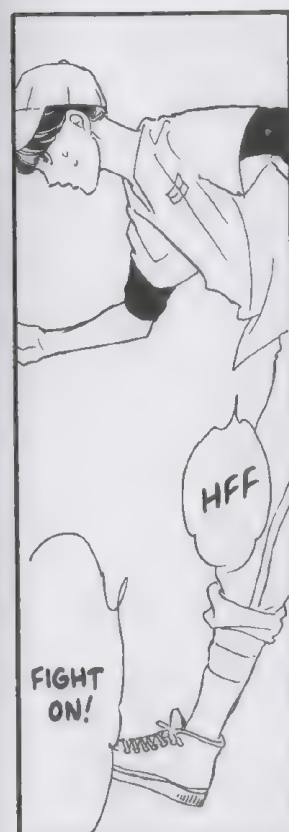
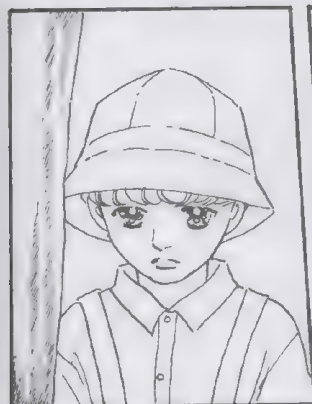


WHO WAS IT!?

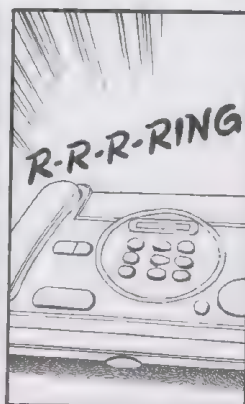
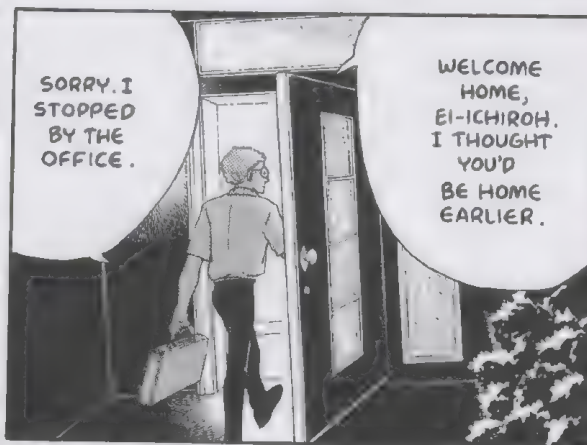
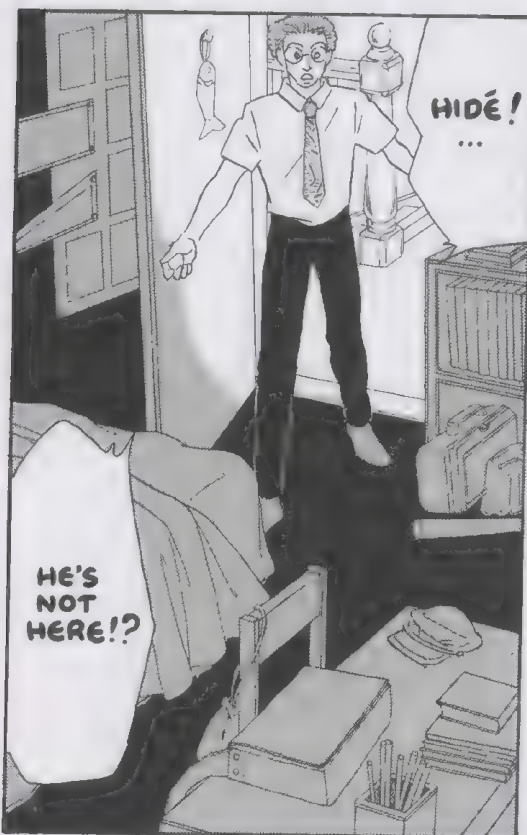
ABÉ SAYS SOMEONE ALSO HID HIS TEXTBOOKS AND HIS SHOES!!

WE WERE JUST PLAYING AROUND.

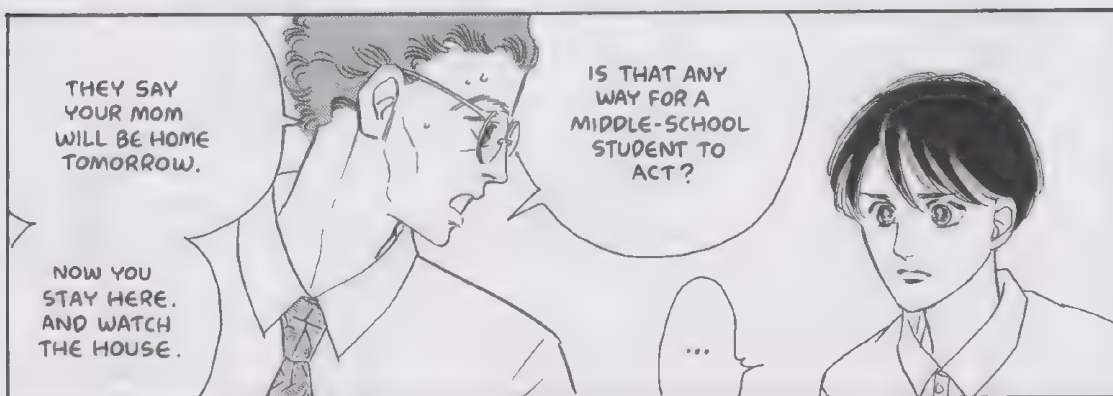
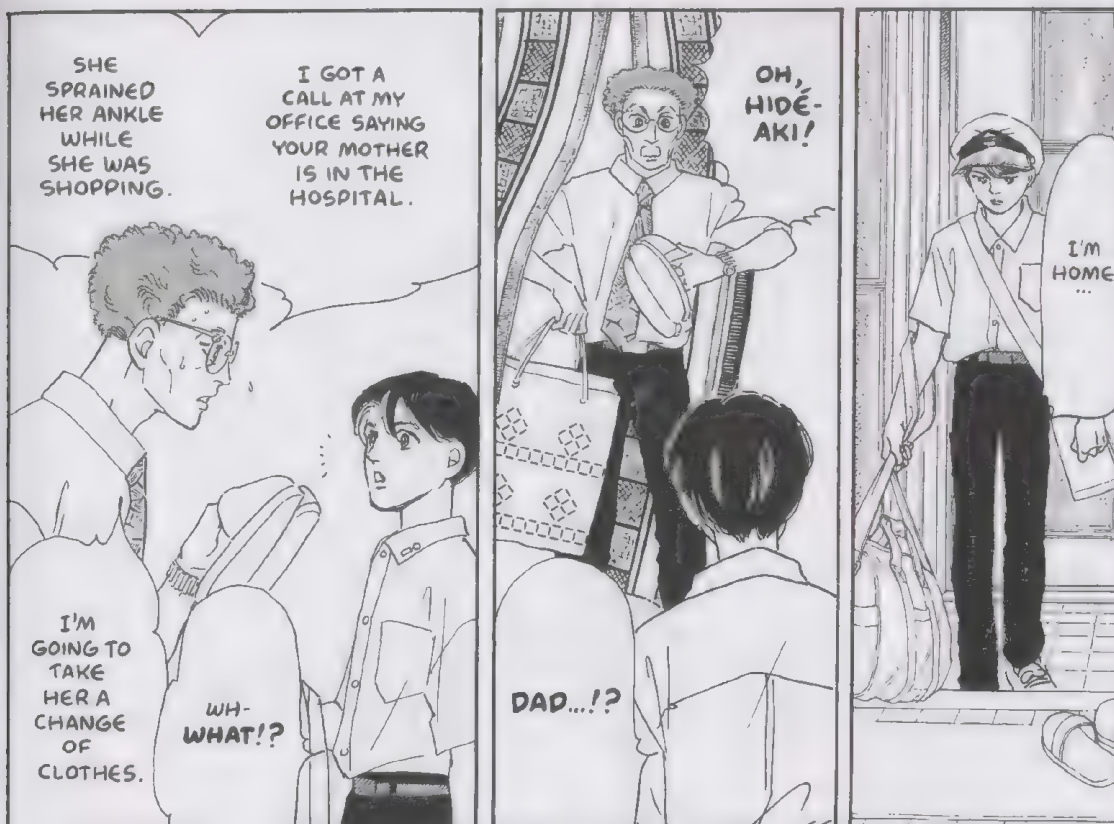




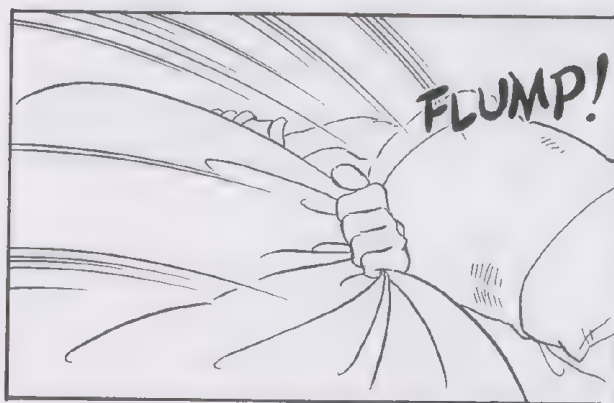
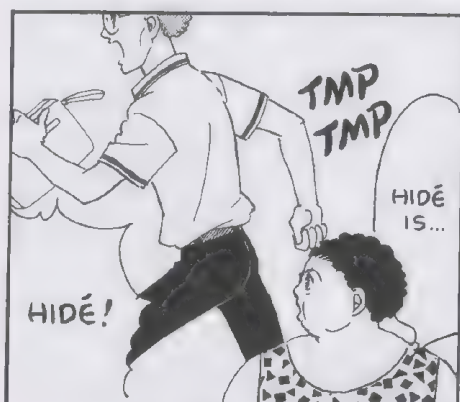




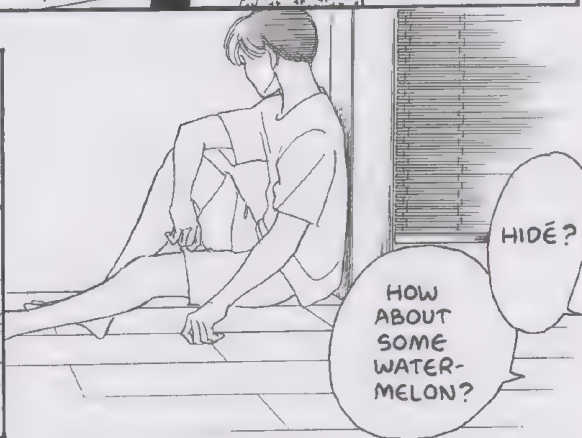
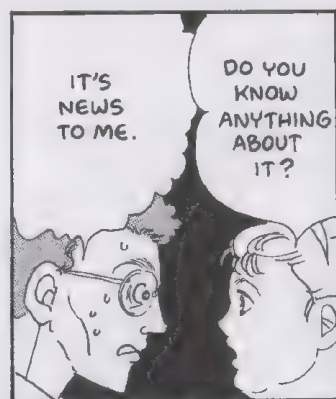
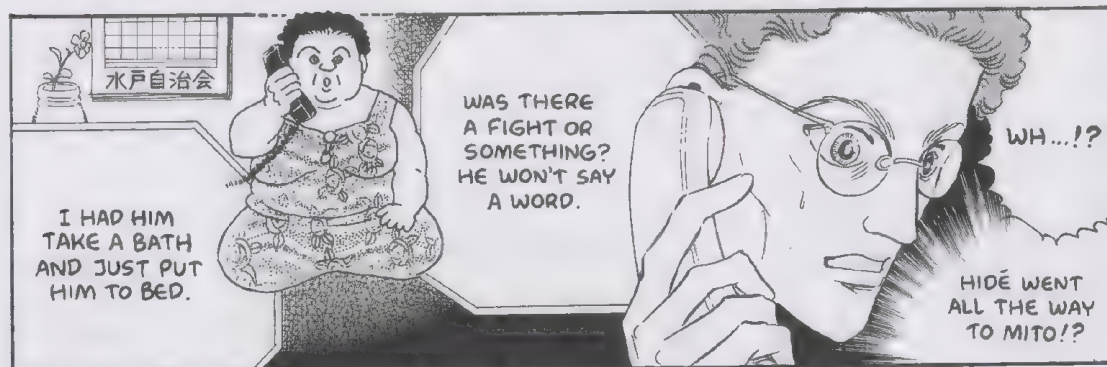
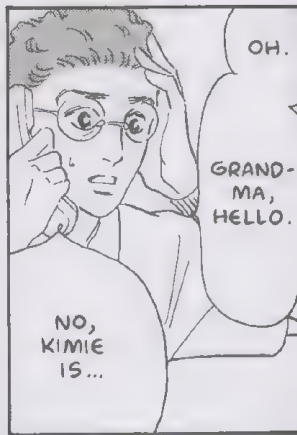




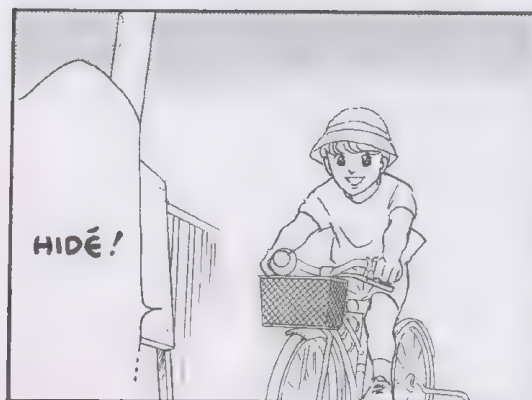
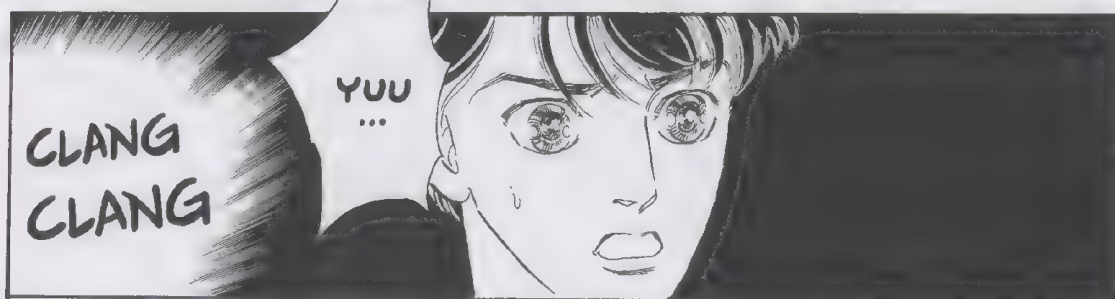
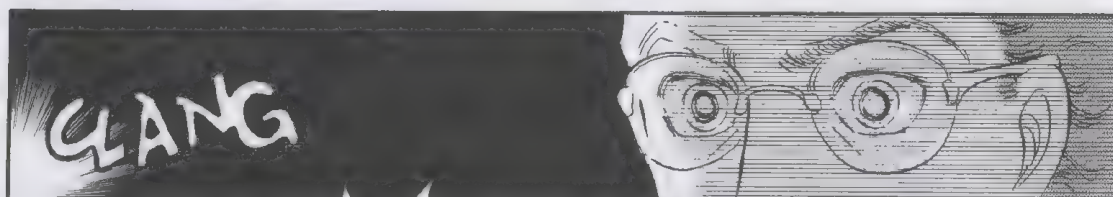
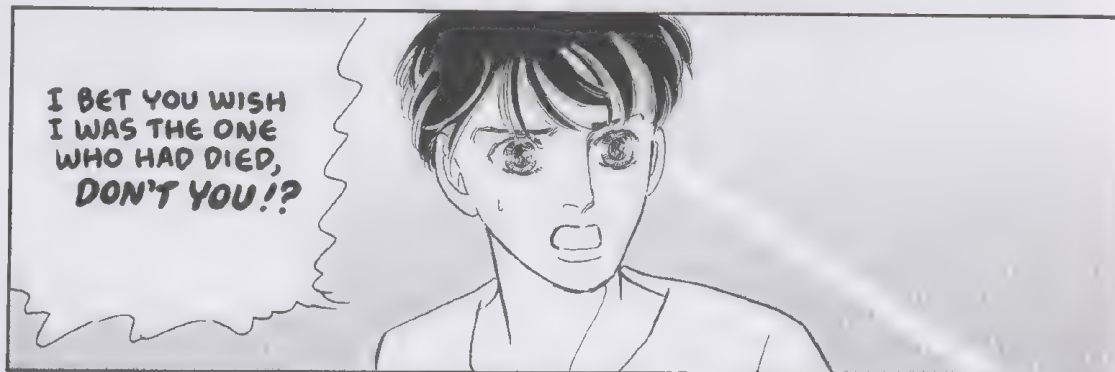




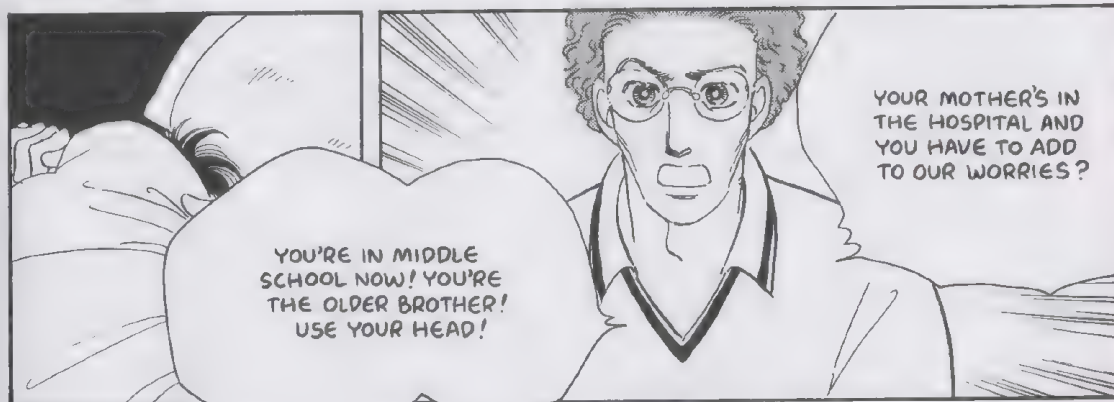
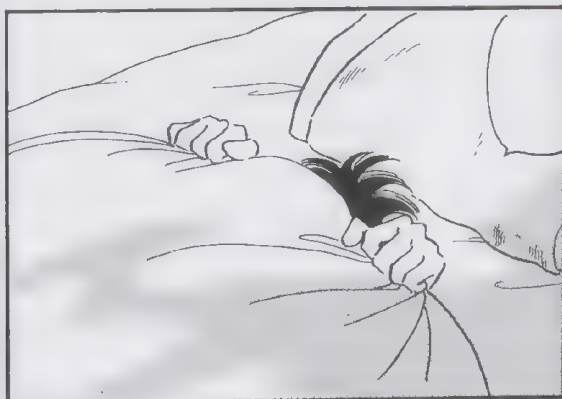




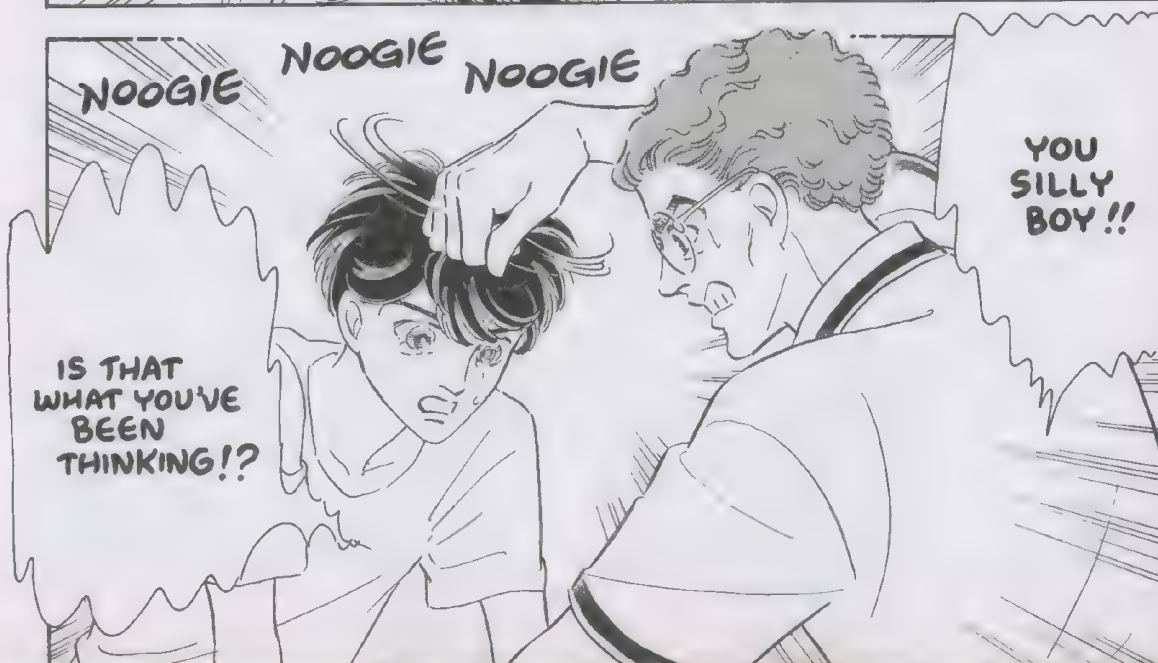
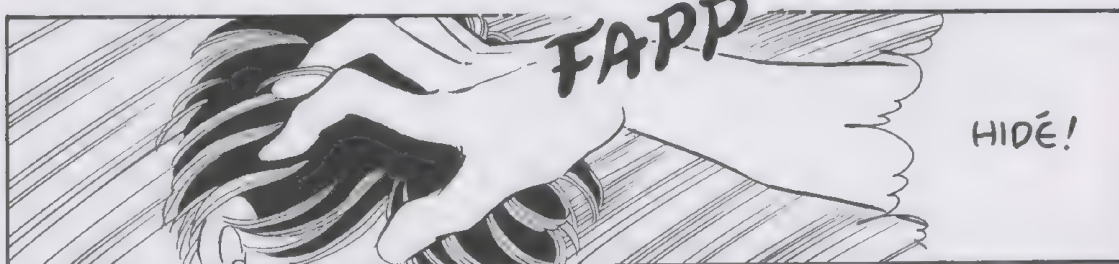
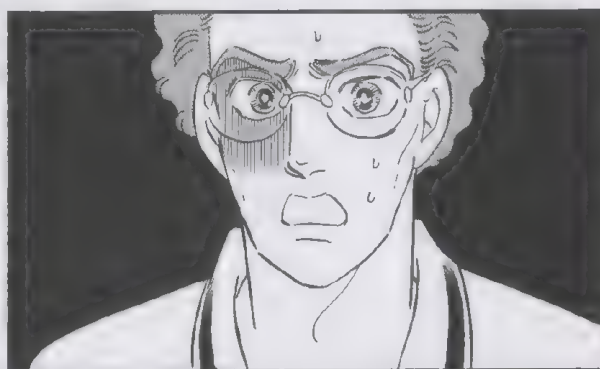
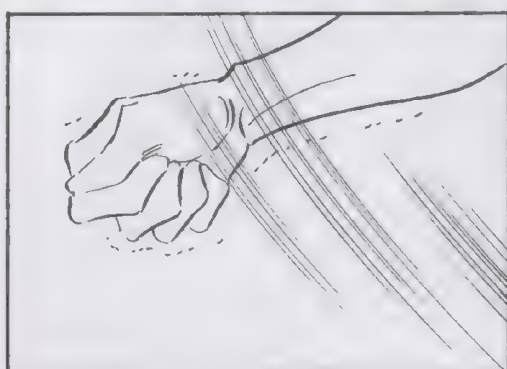
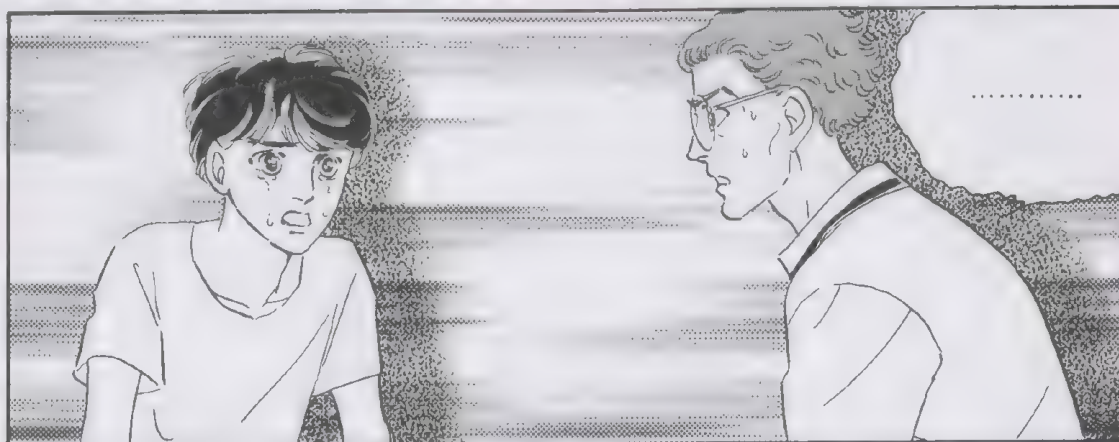




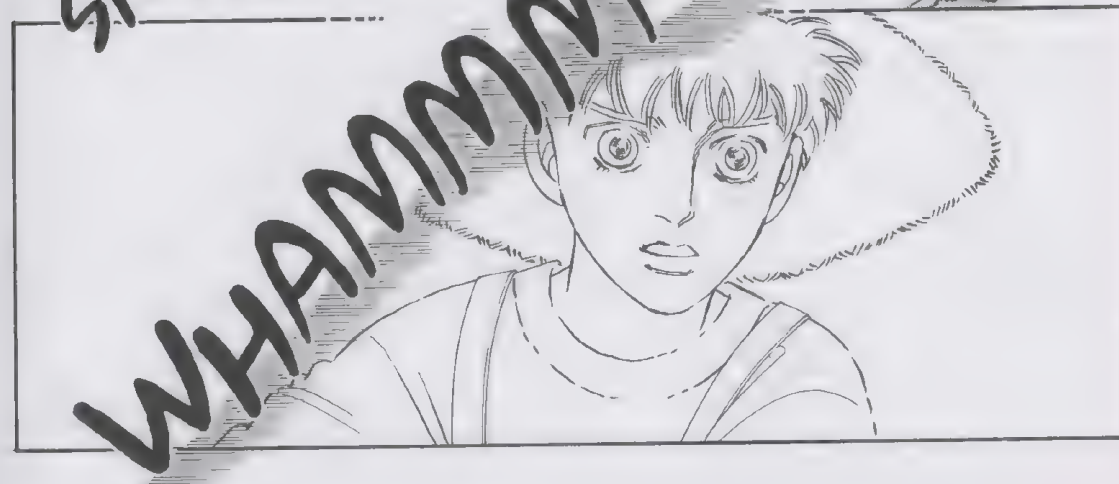
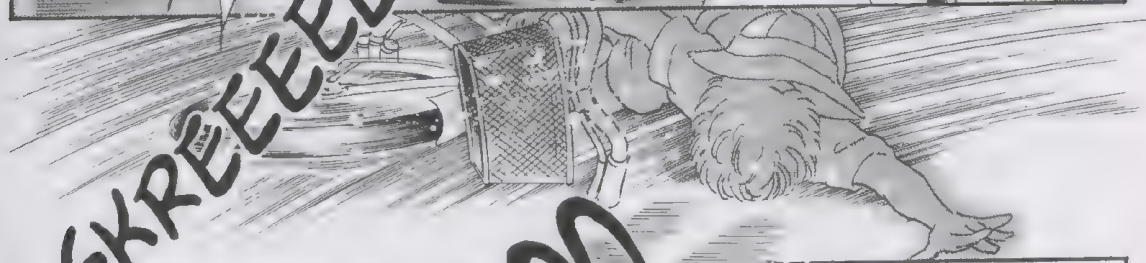
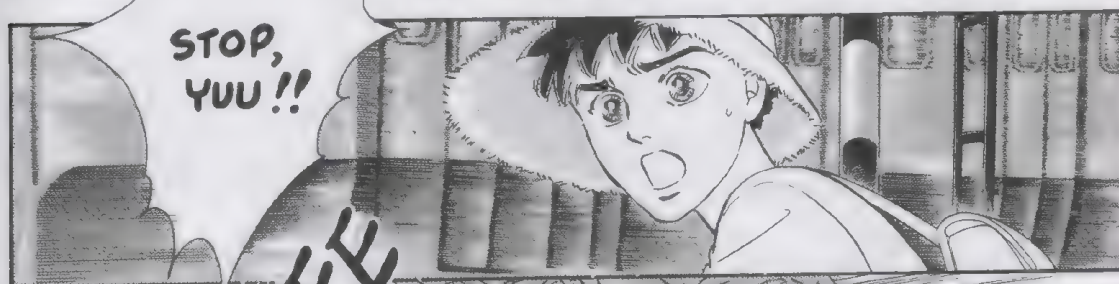
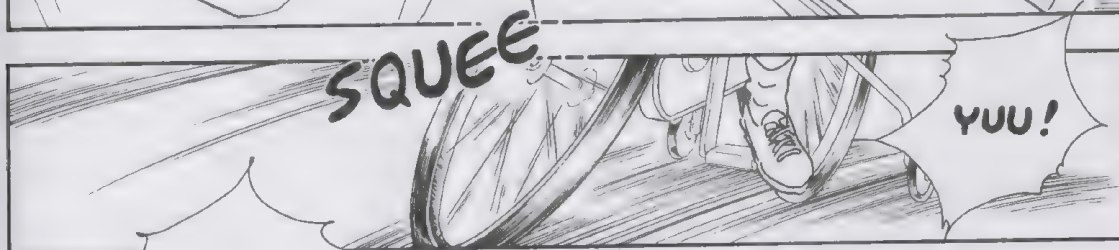




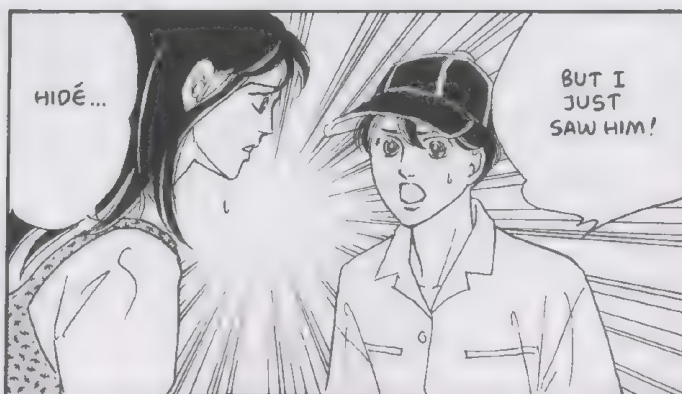
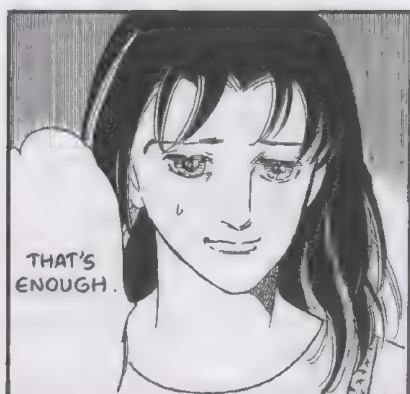




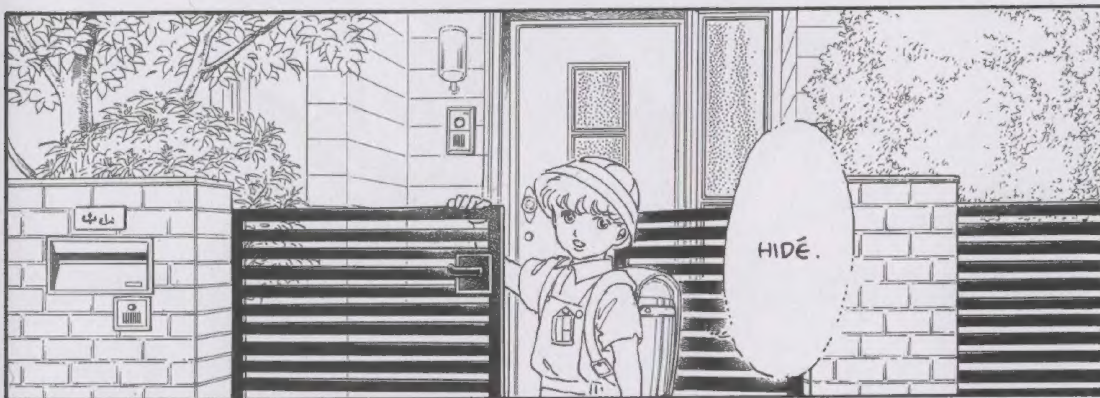
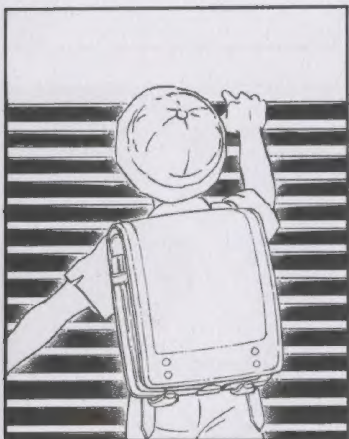




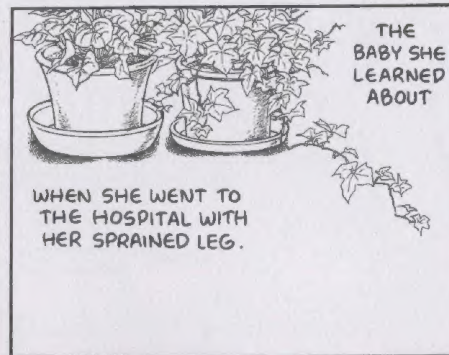




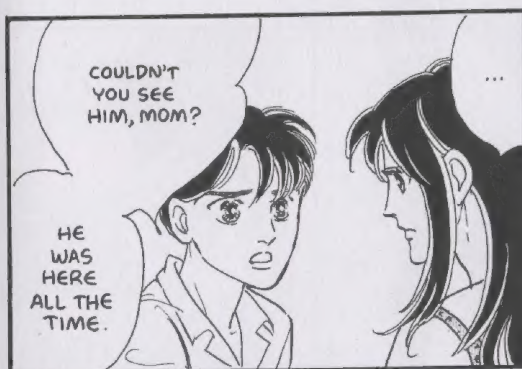
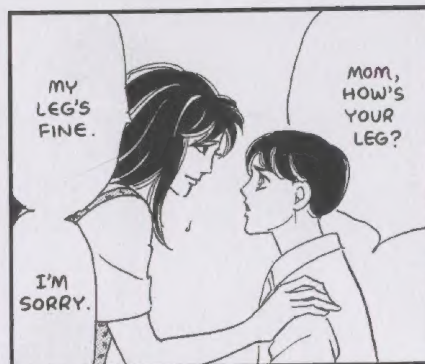




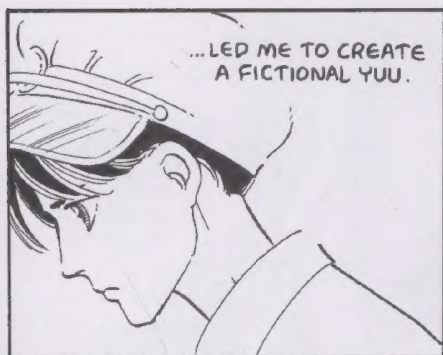








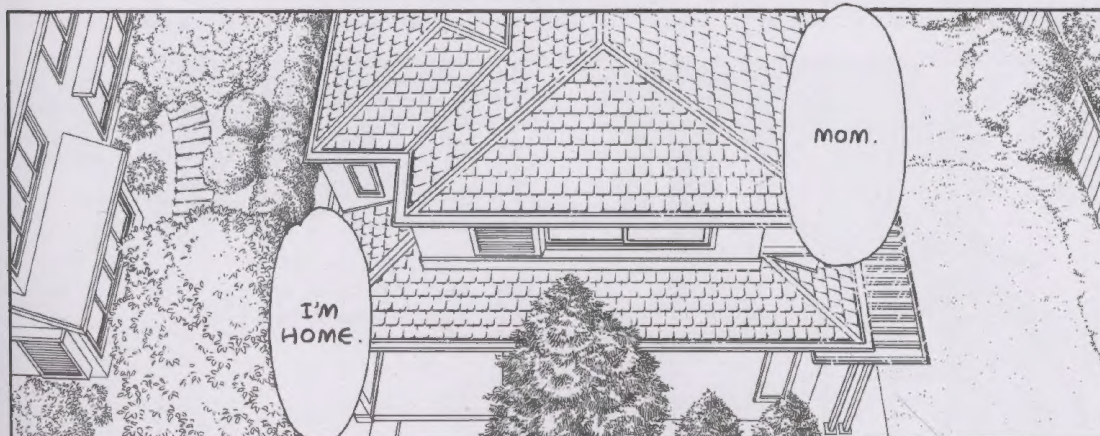
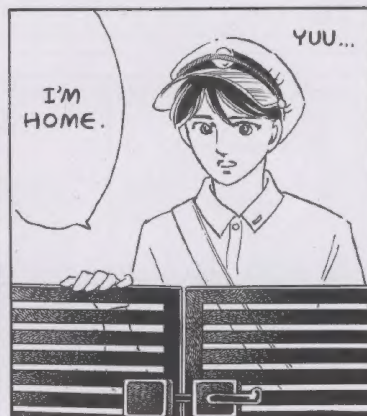
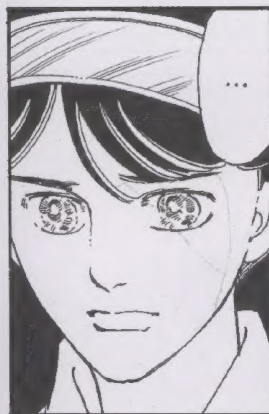




... WHO WANTED  
YUU TO COME  
HOME SO  
BADLY.



MAYBE I WAS  
THE ONE...



END